

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01368 01 OF 02 221616Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07  
TRSE-00 OIC-02 EB-08 OMB-01 /070 W  
-----221644Z 040895 /44

O R 221427Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3410  
USNMR SHAPE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 1368

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, NO  
SUBJECT: NATO AEW: NORWEGIAN POSITION AT MARCH 25 MEETING

REF: STATE 061945

1. DCM DISCUSSED OUR OBJECTIVES AT THE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL  
MEETING ON THE NATO AEW MINISTRY OF DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY  
HOLST ON MARCH 22ND. DRAWING ON STATE 61945, DCM TOLD HOLST  
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PAGE 02 OSLO 01368 01 OF 02 221616Z

THAT OUR OBJECTIVE AT THE MARCH 25TH MEETING WAS THAT ALLIED  
MINISTERS WOULD AGREE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SUPPORT THE NATO  
AEW PROGRAM WITH THEIR CABINETS AND/OR PARLIAMENTS, AND THAT  
THE DEFENSE MINISTERS WOULD EACH AGREE TO COMPLETE THE RELEVANT  
NATIONAL PROCESS IN TIME TO REPORT BACK TO THE MAY DPC MEETING.

2. DCM NOTED THAT, AS HOLST WAS NO DOUBT AWARE, OUR GOVERNMENT

AND THE FRG HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN TALKS TO RESOLVE OUR EXISTING BILATERAL DIFFERENCES INCLUDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES IN THE OVERALL AEW PROGRAM. THE TALKS HAD LED TO USG AGREEMENT TO INCREASE ITS SHARE TO 33 PERCENT OF THE PROGRAM. DCM NOTED THAT THE BILATERAL US-FRG NEGOTIATIONS ADDITIONALLY SOUGHT TO ACHIEVE ENOUGH PROGRESS ON THE AEW PROGRAM TO ALLOW THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE PART IN IT. ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS, THE U.S., GERMAN AND BRITISH, CONTINUE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLIANCE-WIDE PARTICIPATION IN THE AEW PROGRAM. FOR THIS REASON, STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT BY THE VARIOUS DEFENSE MINISTERS, INCLUDING NORWAY, ARE NEEDED AND COULD INDEED BE CRUCIAL TO DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF THE NATO AEW PROGRAM AT THIS FRIDAY'S MEETING. DCM CONCLUDED PRESENTATION BY ASKING HOLST IF HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE ANY INDICATION OF WHAT THE NORWEGIAN POSITION ON FRIDAY'S DPC WOULD BE.

3. HOLST STATED THAT THE GON'S POSITION, AS HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR BY MINISTER HANSEN IN THE DECEMBER DPC, WAS TO BE "GENERALLY POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE" OF THE NATO AEW PROJECT. HE STATED THAT THIS WOULD BE THE POSITION OF THE NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MARCH 25TH MEETING. HOLST ADDED THAT, AS THE ALLIES WERE AWARE, THE NORWEGIANS HAD ALSO PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR THREE BASIC NORWEGIAN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE AEW PROGRAM. THE FIRST RESERVATION WAS THAT THE GON NOT FEEL IT COULD MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON AWACS BEFORE APPRAISING THE PROJECT AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE UPCOMING REPORT OF THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION. HOLST NOTED THAT THOUGH THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL LATER IN 1977 (A FACT WHICH HE EMPHASIZED IS STILL CONFIDENTIAL), THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONSULT INFORMALLY WITH THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 OSLO 01368 01 OF 02 221616Z

ON AWACS. THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION HAS RECENTLY INFORMED THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN WRITING THAT "NOTHING IN THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW WOULD PREVENT NORWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM." THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO HOLST THIS FIRST RESERVATION HAS EFFECTIVELY BEEN RESOLVED, AND NO LONGER STANDS IN THE WAY OF A GON DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AEW PROGRAM.

4. THE SECOND NORWEGIAN RESERVATION ON PARTICIPATION OF THE AWACS, HOLST CONTINUED, RELATED TO THE OPERATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE SYSTEM. HOLST REITERATED THAT CERTAIN OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS (SUCH AS THE AWACS' USE OF NORWEGIAN AIRSPACE, THE NATIONALITY OF AIR CREWS AND HOW THE AWACS ARE SUPPORTED) WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IN LIGHT OF BROADER NORWEGIAN POLICY CONCERNS. (NOTE: THOUGH HOLST DID NOT EXPLICITLY SAY SO, HE WAS CLEARLY REFERRING TO THE GON'S PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE MODE OF OPERATING THE AWACS OVER NORWEGIAN TERRITORY WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH GON'S BASE POLICY AND WITH NORWAY'S DESIRE NOT UNDULY TO PROVOKE THE USSR). HOLST NOTED THAT THOUGH THIS RESERVATION WAS STILL IN EFFECT HE DID NOT THINK THAT IT

WOULD STAND IN THE WAY OF A FORTHCOMING NORWEGIAN REPLY ON AWACS AT THIS TIME SINCE PRESUMABLY THE OPERATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE AWACS WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT UNTIL A MUCH LATER DATE.

5. HOLST SAID THE THIRD RESERVATION THE NORWEGIANS HAD RAISED ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN THE AWACS PROGRAM INVOLVED THE COST SHARING PROGRAM. HERE THE NORWEGIAN POSITION WAS THAT AS LONG AS THE NORWEGIAN PAYMENTS HSARE AND SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS STAYED WITHIN THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OUTLINED IN THE COST SHARING FORMULA PRESENTED BY LABERGE IN DECEMBER, THE NORWEGIANS COULD LIVE WITH THE AMOUNT THEY WERE BEING ASKED TO PUT UP.

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01368 02 OF 02 221631Z  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 1368

6. IN RESPONSE TO HOLST'S POINTS, THE DCM ASKED IF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY PUT ASIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO TAKE UP

THE NORWEGIAN SHARE OF THE AWACS PROGRAM. HOLST CONFIRMED THIS, ASSUMING, HE SAID, THAT THE NORWEGIAN SHARE STILL FELL WITHIN THE GENERAL LINES OF THE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED COST SHARING FORMULA.

7. THE DCM ASKED IF HOLST THOUGHT THE GON COULD COMPLETE ITS FORMAL GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF THE AWACS IN TIME FOR THE MAY 17 DPC. HOLST SAID HE THOUGHT THE GON COULD DO SO SINCE  
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PAGE 02 OSLO 01368 02 OF 02 221631Z

THE ONLY STEP THE GOVERNMENT NOW HAD TO TAKE WAS TO GET CABINET APPROVAL OF GON PARTICIPATION IN THE AEW. HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THIS BEFORE THE MAY MEETING. HOLST ADDED THAT HE DID NOT SEE ANY NEED FOR THE GON TO TAKE THE ISSUE TO PARLIAMENT BEFORE MAY SINCE THE GON ALREADY HAD MONEY PUT ASIDE FOR ITS SHARE OF THE AWACS PROGRAM.

8. COMMENT: THE GON APPEARS TO HAVE FOUND A NEAT WAY AROUND ITS PREVIOUS CONCERN THAT ITS DECISION OF AWACS BE CONSISTENT WITH THE REPORT OF THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION. AS LONG AS THE NORWEGIAN SHARE OF THE PROGRAM IS KEPT TO THE LEVELS PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, THE GON SHOULD NOW BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. WE WILL CERTAINLY FACE SOME PROBLEMS OVER THE GON'S CONCERNS WITH OPERATIONAL MODALITIES, BUT HOPEFULLY THESE CAN BE WORKED OUT LATER.

ANDERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** OCON, MILI, NO, US, NATO  
**To:** NATO BRUSSELS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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